

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2016

Due Date: November 16, 2015

Applicant: South Acton Congregational Church **Submission Date:** Nov 19, 2015

Applicant's Address:

35 School Street

Acton, MA 01720

Phone Number: 978-263-2332

E-mail: info@southactoncc.org

Purpose: (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Open Space
- ☐ Community Housing
- ☒ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable): _____

Project Name: South Acton Congregational Church Roof Repair (Historic District Church)

Project Location/Address: 35 School Street, Acton, MA 01720

Amount Requested: \$15,000.00

Project Summary: In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

Scope of Work:

The purpose of this project is to perform roof repairs to prevent ice dam formation (See picture A, Ice Dam Winter 2015) to preserve an historic structure. Absent this fix, ice dams will continue to form each winter resulting water backing up into the roof and leaking into the building, damaging the ceilings, walls, and eventually rotting the structure. Increased use of the building by the community extends the periods the building is heated to room temperature. This increases the heat loss and melting of roof snow, aggravating the longstanding ice dam problem. These ice dams and the resulting intrusion of melting water has already resulted in the damage to the building. We have already replaced some of the sill beam and more needs to be replaced. (See picture A, Rot on Sill & Cover Due to Water Dripping Off Ice Dam.) There has also been interior damage to the ceiling and walls in the front door foyer and the stair well too. Finally, the result of these ice dams and resulting melting has rotted out the doorframe and wall area for the rear basement exit area.

The work that will be done to prevent future ice dams and fix the exterior damage includes:

- Strip off existing shingles on problem area up to main box (Approx. 20' x 24')
- Pull off roof deck boards on stripped area of existing roof
- Add Prop-a-Vent over existing insulation/vent soffit
- Re-plywood the roof area from which boards were removed
- Install soffit vent at bottom edge of newly roofed area
- Install new ice and water shield and drip edge
- Install rubber roof on stripped portion
- Tie into existing shingles/existing skylight
- Hard wire and install 2 ventilation fans on back of main roof
- Install a gutter and downspout
- Remove the rotted wood, waterproof the interior structure, and replace exterior wood with white PVC

The proposed work does not include repairs to interior walls and ceilings, which is being done with our own funds. All work will be conducted in a manner that restores and preserves the original historic appearance of the exterior.

The projected cost for the materials and labor to accomplish all this work is between \$14,000.00 and \$15,000.00

Historic Protection:

The South Acton Congregational Church is a historic resource that should be protected. It is located at 35 School Street, in one of Acton's three Local Historic Districts, the South Acton District, in easy walking distance to other historic properties listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places including the Faulkner House, the Jones Tavern, and the Exchange Hall.

Formed in 1876, the South Acton Congregational Church was known originally as the Mission Society and first met at the adjacent building known in its time as The Patriot Block, now 27 School Street. The group had grown sufficiently enough by 1881 to move down to the Chapel Room of the South Acton Elementary School, located at 54 School Street.

Following many fund raisers and other events; the present building was constructed by Harris & Duren beginning in 1891 and completed in 1892.

The church has had additions at the rear, but the front facade looks today much as it did 123 years ago. The interior of the sanctuary is essentially the same as when first constructed, with two massive stained glass memorial windows that were given by members of the Lothrop family who owned one of the several mills that once existed along Fort Pond Brook. The pulpit, bible stand and chairs were given by the Faulkner family that owned the mills at Main and High Street. Electric lighting had been installed prior to the acquisition of the Estey organ in 1912.

The members of the church are proud of the building and the Massachusetts Historical Commission used a photograph of the church for the cover of one of its publications. The steeple contains the bell that was an "anonymous gift" in 1892, and that gift reminds the people of South Acton of the church's presence and role in the larger world that is today.

The Congregation and the church building are active in the Acton Community. In addition to being used for worship services, the building has been used/is being used by various organizations in the Acton community, such as The Acton Historic Society, a support group for divorced individuals, a Narcotics Anonymous group, a local theater group, and others. We also hold musical performances open to the public and conduct a very popular

semi-annual rummage and bake sale patronized by hundreds of local residents.

The work sought to be done through CPA funds will meet the CPC's Historic Preservation Goals by protecting and preserving a historic property and helping to preserve the existing historical character of the town.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: April 1 2016

Estimated Date for Completion of Project: May 1 2016

Picture A. Ice Dam Winter 2015



Picture B. Rot on Sill & Cover Due to Water Dripping off Ice Dam

